



# 2016 APRIL CALENDAR

## BLACKSTONE RIVER & CANAL

### HERITAGE STATE PARK

River Bend Farm Visitor Center is located at 287 Oak Street Uxbridge MA 01569

*Following the Plough* exhibit upper level open daily from 10:00-4:00.

Visitor Services Supervisor: Kathryn Park Phone Number: 508-278-7604

All programs are free and open to the public. Children must be accompanied by adult.

Reasonable accommodations available upon request. For more information please call the park or online at  
<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/massparks/region-central/blackstone-river-and-canal-heritage-state-park.html>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Art at the River 10:30-11:00  Canal Towpath Walk 1:00-2:00	11	12	13	14	15	16 Lookout to the Valley Hike 1:00-3:00 Sunset River Walk 6:30-7:30
17 Special Event: BRWA Spring Clean up 1:00-3:00	18 Sketch booking and Looking 11:30-12:30	19	20	21 All About Owls 10:00-11:30  Habitat Hike 12-12:45	22 Earth Day Kidleidoscope Story Hour 10:30-11:30 Bark & Buds 12:00-1:00	23



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<b>24</b> <b>Special Event:</b> <b>Park Serve Day</b> <b>Upton State</b> <b>Forest</b> 8:30-12:00	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>Kidleidoscope</b> <b>Rabbits and</b> <b>Raindrops</b> <b>Story Hour</b> 10:30-11:30	<b>30</b> <b>Special Event:</b> <b>Park Serve Day</b> <b>River Bend</b> <b>Farm</b> 9:00-12:00
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## RIVER BEND FARM VISITORS CENTER

<b><i>Following the Plough</i> Exhibit at River Bend Farm Visitors Center</b>	Open from 10 – 4 daily. Located on the second floor of River Bend Farm Visitor Center, the exhibit explores the farm to factory story of the Blackstone Valley and its communities; highlighting rural life both before and after the industrial revolution. The mixture of archival images, as well as period and reproduction artifacts, give visitors an idea of what rural life was like in the 1800s. No admission or parking fee.
<b>Earth Day Art Exhibit</b>	This temporary exhibit for the week of April 17-23 showcases work from local artists inspired by the rich natural and heritage landscapes of the Blackstone Valley. Stop by the activity station and create a sketch or work of art of your own. Located in River Bend Farm Visitor Center, open daily 10am-4pm. No admission or parking fee.
<b>Healthy Heart Towpath Walk</b>	Staying active is a healthy life choice and what better place than in a beautiful state park? Portions of the Blackstone Canal towpath are designated as an easy 1 mile Healthy Heart Hike. Pick up a self-guided towpath brochure in the visitor center and get out often for this enjoyable walk that offers diverse scenery.



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## PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

<b>All About Owls</b>	Learn about the most common owls of the area and hear recordings of their calls. Discover how these fascinating birds live and eat. Discover how the habitat favors the prey that owls need for food and characteristics that make owls successful hunters in low light. Be prepared to take a closer look at an owl pellet. Meets inside Visitor Center.
<b>Art at the River</b>	A healthy dose of Nature and Art! We will take a short walk through the field and explore the nature trails that lead to the Blackstone River. Relax a while and make a nature journal to write down your discoveries. Materials provided to make a nature notebook and sun print. Approximately one mile round trip. All ages welcome. Meet at Visitor Center.
<b>Bark &amp; Buds Spring Walk</b>	Show your love for the trees this Arbor Day, get outdoors and take in the sights of springtime as we observe the early stages of leaf –out. Become a nature detective and match up buds and bark to identify trees during this challenging and exciting time of year -before leaf buds fully open! Family friendly hike, all ages welcome. Meet at Visitor Center.
<b>Canal Towpath Walk</b>	This easy walk meets at River Bend Farm Visitor Center and continues along the canal's towpath. Walk along with us and listen to stories of the past and catch a view of local wildlife. Appropriate for all ages. Flat hard packed gravel, 2 mile round trip. Meet at Visitor Center.
<b>Habitat Hike</b>	Come take a hike around River Bend Farm and discover the different types of habitats that exist along the trails, woodlands, and waterways. Find out more about what makes up a habitat and what animals live in the area. Dress for the weather, wear sturdy hiking shoes. Family friendly hike, all ages welcome. Meet at Visitor Center.
<b>Kidleidoscope Story Hour</b>	This popular nature themed story and activity hour has an early start this season! Meets at the Big Red Barn Visitor Center for stories followed by a short nature walk and a take home craft. This free program designed to connect young children to nature runs rain or shine. Wear appropriate clothing for the nature walk portion. Meets indoors during inclement weather. Children must be accompanied by adult.



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<b>Lookout to the Valley Hike</b>	Get down to earth and take a geology and nature hike to Lookout Rock! Identify rocks and minerals and see evidence of a range of geologic processes that have shaped the landscape. At the lookout be rewarded with a bird's eye view of the watershed and be inspired to participate in becoming an Earth Day Steward. Bring water, snack and binoculars to enjoy a short break at the lookout. Wear sturdy shoes for this moderate 3 mile round trip hike along rocky forest trails. All ages and dogs on leash welcome. <b>Meet at Rice City Pond Parking Area located at 366 East Hartford Ave., Uxbridge MA 01569.</b>
<b>Sketch booking and Looking</b>	Make a nature sketchbook with a local artist from recycled materials. Observe and record your nature discoveries through sketching. All ages and abilities welcome to this family program. Meet at Visitor Center.
<b>Sunset River Walk</b>	Take walk to the bank of the Blackstone River to enjoy a campfire during the magic hour of light and shadows at sunset. Share stories of the Blackstone River's past and hear inspiring facts of the river's recovery. Get inspired to participate in Earth Day cleanups! All ages welcome. Under 1 mile round trip. Meets at Visitor Center. Dress for the weather. All ages and friendly dogs on leash are welcome.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

<b>BRWA Spring Clean up</b>	In celebration of Earth Day, the Blackstone River Watershed Association (BRWA) is sponsoring a river cleanup on Sunday, April 17, from 1:00-3:00. <a href="http://www.thebrwa.org">www.thebrwa.org</a>
<b>Park Serve Day Upton State Forest April 24</b>	Help out with various spring clean-up projects, including litter pick-up, raking leaves, spreading mulch, planting flowers, etc. Meet at: CCC Camp Parade Grounds, 205 Westboro Rd., Upton at 8:30 a.m. - 12:00
<b>Park Serve Day Blackstone Heritage State Park April 30</b>	Meet at River Bend Farm Visitor Center and help rake, mulch, trim and clean up to get the summer season off on the right start! Lend a hand during this day of statewide volunteer service at Massachusetts state parks. Dress for the weather with appropriate work shoes and gloves. Water will be provided. For more information or to discuss any special accommodations or needs you may have for the day, please call 508-278-7604. Park Serve Day events across the state: <a href="http://web1.env.state.ma.us/DCR/MassParksPublic/#/main/EventDetailByID/103/600">http://web1.env.state.ma.us/DCR/MassParksPublic/#/main/EventDetailByID/103/600</a>



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